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Vacancies in the Fisheries Training Institute, Calicut.

*363 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) whether the vacancies in the Fisheries Training Institute, Calicut, have been filled up ;

(b) how long the institute was without the Headmaster and the First Assistant ;

(c) whether the first assistant's post still remains vacant ; and

(d) what arrangements have been made to carry on the work ?

A.—(a) Not all.

(b) The Headmaster was absent from 7th October 1930 to 1st December 1930 ; the First Assistant from 4th August 1930 to 22nd August 1930. The latter has again been absent from 9th September 1930.

(c) Yes.

(d) The work of the absent members of the staff has been distributed among the other members of the staff.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—" May I know whether in the absence of the headmaster and the first assistant, the other members of the staff were able to carry on the work of the institute ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" I think so."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—" May I know why the vacancies were not filled up ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" Because it was not possible."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" May I know what is the meaning of the word 'absent'? Does it mean 'without leave' or 'sent away' or 'suspended from work'? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" It means absence on leave."

Fish-curing yards in charge of peons.

*364 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that there are many fish-curing yards in charge of peons ; and

(b) what the number of yards is which are now in charge of peons ?

A.—(a) & (b) Out of 113 fish-curing yards, 45 are in charge of peons.

[For further list of starred questions, please see page 744 infra.]

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Criminal Justice

Convictions for manufacturing contraband salt.

365 Q.—Mr. C. SATYANARAYANA CHOUDARI : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the decision of Sessions Judge, Nellore, declaring that it is illegal for the police to proceed in cases of manufacturing of contraband salt and that it is the Salt department alone that can move in such cases ;

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(b) how many convictions there were in the Presidency for the offence of manufacturing contraband salt since March last;

(c) whether in all the cases, the Salt department put the law in motion;

(d) whether the Government have preferred any appeal against the decision of the Sessions Judge, Nellore; and

(e) whether the Government have reviewed or propose to review the cases of convictions for the manufacture of contraband salt where it was only the Police and not Salt officers that put up charge-sheets?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The total number of convictions under the Salt Act in this Presidency for the six months ending with June 1930 was 553. The Government have no information as to how many of these convictions were for the particular offence of manufacturing contraband salt, or as to the number of convictions of any kind under the Act from July 1930.

(c) The Government have no information.

(d) Yes.

(e) It would be premature to answer the question while the decision of the Sessions Judge of Nellore and a contrary decision on a similar issue are before the High Court of Judicature.

General

Rewards to public servants for services in connexion with the civil disobedience movement.

366 Q.—Mr. G. Simhachalam: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state in detail—

(a) the amount spent in rewarding public servants in connexion with the civil disobedience movement; and

(b) how many of the persons thus rewarded were persons against whom complaints have been made by the public for excesses committed by them in the discharge of their duties?

A.—(a) The total amount sanctioned is approximately Rs. 69,000.

(b) None, so far as Government are aware.

Legislative

Enfranchisement of holders of boat licence.

367 Q.—Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether representations were made to Government that holders of boat licence should be enfranchised; and

(b) if so, what steps the Government have taken in order to examine the question?

A.—(a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) Does not arise.

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Motor Vehicles Act

Engagement of brokers for selling bus tickets.

368 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that the owners of buses running for hire in Salem and Coimbatore districts engage brokers for selling tickets in certain centres; and

(b) whether the Government propose to make rules to prevent this?

A.—(a) The Government have no information.

(b) The Government have issued instructions in the matter and are issuing an amendment to the Madras Motor Vehicles Rules with a view to removing the evils now associated with the practice in certain districts.

Police

Lathi charge on a procession in Madagole.

369 Q.—Rai Sahib C. KOLANDA REDDI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether there was a lathi charge on a procession in Madagole in Vizagapatam district on 6th January 1931;

(b) how many persons were injured and how many were under treatment;

(c) whether Mr. Somana Chettiyar, Vice-President, Madagole Union Board, was so badly beaten as to become unconscious; and

(d) whether any, and if so, what action was taken against the police who took part in the beating?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) & (c) The Government have no detailed information but have called for a report.

(d) None.

Arrest of Mr. S. Satyamurti.

370 Q.—Rai Sahib C. KOLANDA REDDI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that at the time of the arrest of Mr. Satyamurti and others there was no crowd at all?

A.—The Government have no information.

Action taken on the suppression of Brothels and Immoral Traffic Act.

371 Q.—Mr. K. KOTI REDDI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state what steps have so far been taken by the Government in order to put into operation the Suppression of Brothels and Immoral Traffic Act recently enacted?

A.—There are practical difficulties in the way of bringing into force "The Madras Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, 1930." It presupposes the establishment of Juvenile Courts to deal with the girls removed from brothels and of rescue homes for their detention. (Section 6.) So far a Juvenile court has been

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established only in Madras City and the question of establishing similar courts in the mufassal can be considered after experience has been gained of the working of the Madras Court. There are at present no suitable rescue homes to which girls removed from brothels can be sent and the establishment of such institutions depends upon public enterprise. The Act is intended to apply to the Presidency as a whole and contains no provision enabling the local Government to apply it to particular areas only.

Revision of the scales of pay of subordinate Police officers.

372 Q.—The KUMARARAJA OF VENKATAGIRI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the present scales of pay of the subordinate Police officers in this Presidency were fixed;

(*b*) whether since then there have been any representations made by them to the Government, requesting that their scales of pay should be revised;

(*c*) whether the Government propose to appoint a committee to go into the question of revision of scales of pay and travelling allowance rules relating to those officers; and

(*d*) if so, when?

A.—(*a*) The existing scales of pay were sanctioned on the following dates:—

	City.	Mufassal.
Inspectors	10th August 1921 ..	10th August 1921.
Sub-Inspectors ..	3rd August 1926 ..	11th December 1924.
Sergeants	1st April 1929 ..	15th April 1929.
Head constables and constables.	11th March 1922 ..	28th March 1921.

NOTE.—The pay of Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors appointed in the City Police on or after 1st April 1929 was fixed on that date at mufassal rates with a Presidency allowance of Rs. 50 and Rs. 25 each per mensem respectively.

(*b*) Memorials were received from the constabulary of certain districts for increase of pay.

(*c*) & (*d*) No.

Criminal Justice

Convictions under section 17 (1), *Criminal Law Amendment Act.*

373 Q.—Mr. C. SATYANARAYANA CHOUDARI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many persons have been convicted up to date solely under section 17 (1), Criminal Law Amendment Act;

(*b*) when the Criminal Law Amendment Act was applied to the Kistna district;

(*c*) when Mr. M. Venkata Krishna Rao Pantulu, the Editor of *Krishna Patrika*, was convicted and under what provision of law;

(*d*) whether Mr. Krishna Rao had any connexion with the Andhra Provincial Congress Committee after it was declared unlawful; and

(*e*) whether the Government propose to examine the cases under the Criminal Law Amendment Act in this Presidency and remit the sentences in all deserving cases?

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A.—(*a*) The Government have no information.

(*b*) Certain associations operating in the Kistna district were declared unlawful on 21st June 1930.

(*c*) The person intended to be referred to is apparently Mutnuri Krishna Rao who was the Editor of *Krishna Patrika* who was convicted under the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act on 24th June 1930.

(*d*) The Government have no information.

(*e*) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clause (*c*) of Legislative Council question No. 186-A.

Electricity

Electrification of Salem and Erode.

374 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Goundar: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) at what stage the electrification schemes of Salem and Erode municipalities are ;

(*b*) when these towns will actually receive the supply of electricity ;

(*c*) what the cost will be per unit ;

(*d*) whether there is any proposal to supply electricity to any wayside towns excepting these two municipalities ; and

(*e*) if so, what are those towns ?

A.—(*a*) A licence for the distribution of electric energy in these towns has been granted to Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co.

(*b*) Probably towards the end of 1931.

(*c*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to Notification No. 11 published on pages 34—40 of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, Part I, dated 6th January 1931.

(*d*) & (*e*) No such proposal is at present under the consideration of Government.

Jails

Alleged special treatment to political prisoners at Vellore.

375 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Goundar: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the political prisoners in Vellore Jail after release are taken direct to Katpadi under police escort and sent by the next train ;

(*b*) whether the same treatment is given to the ordinary prisoners also ; and

(*c*) if the answer to (*b*) be in the negative, why such a special treatment is given to political prisoners alone ?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The Government have no information.

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Health of political prisoners.

376 Q.—Mr. C. SATYANARAYANA CHOUDARI : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that iron vessels are used for cooking food and curries in the jails ;

(*b*) whether the Government are aware that the use of these iron vessels is proving injurious to the health of prisoners and whether they would consult expert opinion on this subject ;

(*c*) what is the total number of political prisoners in the Presidency from April last ;

(*d*) how many of them have lost weight in jails ;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that some have lost weight by 25 lb. and more, and some by even 40 lb ;

(*f*) what is the reason for the said reduction ;

(*g*) what special arrangements are made for the treatment of such cases ;

(*h*) whether the Government have considered the advisability of releasing all such prisoners ;

(*i*) how many political prisoners in the whole Presidency are attacked with tuberculosis and how many are suspected of it ; and

(*j*) whether the Government have consulted medical opinion on the question of immediately releasing all such persons ?

A.—(*a*) The hon. Member is referred to rule 351 of the Madras Jail Manual.

(*b*) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

(*c*) The hon. Member is referred to answer to question No. 191-B. Information for the period subsequent to October 1930 is not available.

(*d*) to (*f*) The Government have no information.

(*g*) The hon. Member is referred to the rules regarding the medical administration of jails contained in Chapter XXXVIII of the Madras Jail Manual.

(*h*) No.

(*i*) The Government have no information.

(*j*) No.

Release of Mr. P. Venkatanarayana of Dendulur.

377 Q.—Rao Sahib B. VENKATARAMAYYA NAYUDU : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Pydipati Venkatanarayana of Dendulur, West Godavari district, a political prisoner, was recently transferred from Cannanore to Cuddalore ;

(*b*) whether any request was made by his relatives that he was a consumptive patient and that he should be transferred to a place with a dry climate ;

(*c*) whether the Government have any objection to transfer him to the Vellore Jail ;

(*d*) whether the Government is aware that he is now suffering also from consumption and is losing weight ;

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(*e*) whether any representation was made by his brother to the hon. the Law Member regarding the state of his health; and

(*f*) if so, whether the Government will consider the desirability of releasing him unconditionally?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*d*) The Government have no information.

(*c*) The question will be considered.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) Does not arise.

Economic condition

Alleged difficulty among ryots in Northern Circars in paying kist.

378 *Q.*—Mr. C. Satyanarayana Choudari: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is true that ryots in Northern Circars are finding it too difficult to find money to pay the kist due for land-tax and water-tax; and

(*b*) what steps the Government have taken or propose to take to relieve the situation?

A.—(*a*) The Government realize that the ryot is obtaining a lower price this year for his crops than in the last few years but this condition of affairs is not peculiar to the Northern Circars.

(*b*) The Government have decided to appoint a committee of officials and non-officials to examine the effects of the general economic depression at present prevailing, and to report whether any measures should be adopted by Government to mitigate them by arranging for the co-operative marketing of certain products or otherwise.

Economic depression in the Presidency.

379 *Q.*—Mr. C. Satyanarayana Choudari: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is heavy economic depression in the country;

(*b*) the present average price of paddy per candy;

(*c*) the price of paddy per candy in the previous three years;

(*d*) whether the Government have ascertained the reasons for this fall in prices of paddy;

(*e*) what steps the Government have taken to secure better prices for paddy and what steps they propose to take to relieve the situation;

(*f*) whether there is similar fall in price of groundnuts;

(*g*) whether the Government have ascertained the causes for the said fall; and

(*h*) what steps they propose to take to find a better market for groundnuts and to secure better prices for the same?

A.—(*a*) It is a fact that trade and agriculture in general have been adversely affected by the recent fall of prices.

(*b*), (*c*) & (*f*) A statement [a] is annexed.

(*d*) & (*g*) The Government have made no special enquiries as to the reasons of the fall in prices.

(*e*) & (*h*) Prices are regulated by supply and demand. The attention of the hon. Member however is invited to the answer given to clause (*b*) of question No. 378.

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on page 772 infra.

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Irrigation

Irrigation of lands included in the 'suspense list' in Kistna ayacut.

380 Q.—Rai Sahib C. KOLANDA REDDI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the 6-feet shutters over the Kistna anicut were constructed to include in the ayacut of Kistna Eastern Delta a large extent of irrigable dry land;

(*b*) whether construction of the shutters was completed about five years ago;

(*c*) whether any dry land has been included in the ayacut since the completion of the construction; if not, why not;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that many lands for inclusion have been placed in what is called the 'suspense list', and if any extent of these lands is irrigated, the ryot is penalised therefor;

(*e*) how long this state of suspense is to continue; and

(*f*) whether the Government will be pleased to take necessary steps to accord permission for the irrigation of the lands already included in the 'suspense list'?

A.—(*a*) The object of the shutters was to improve the supply to the existing ayacut and to see if irrigation of a larger area would be possible.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes. Lands on which the inclusion fee had been paid and of which the level had been lowered have been included in the registered wet ayacut.

(*d*) Three thousand acres of lands which were not selected for inclusion by the special staff engaged in the localization of the ayacut in 1917—20, have been placed in the suspense list. Such of these as lie at the fringe of the ayacut and were brought under wet cultivation subsequent to the localization of the wet ayacut are charged one extra water-rate as penalty; the rest are charged only single water-rate.

(*e*) & (*f*) Proposals on the subject have recently been received from the Board of Revenue and are under the consideration of Government.

Supply of water to Badvel tank.

381 Q.—Mr. K. KOTI REDDI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state in what stage the proposed project to supply water to the Badvel tank in Cuddapah district by means of a channel from the Sagileru river is?

A.—The project was abandoned as there was no prospect of its being successful.

Supply of water for lands in Badvel and Siddhout taluks.

382 Q.—Mr. K. KOTI REDDI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government have investigated or propose to take steps to investigate the engineering possibilities of supplying water for irrigating lands in Badvel and Siddhout taluks of Cuddapah district?

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A.—A. The following schemes were investigated and abandoned :—

(1) Lower Sagileru project (Badvel taluk).
(2) Itagundlapad scheme (,,).
(3) Tambalagundi tank restoration scheme (Siddhout taluk).
(4) Construction of new tanks across the Vanneswaram vanka (Siddhout taluk).
(5) Extension of the Velgode channel for the irrigation of lands in Badvel and Siddhout taluks, one of the schemes connected with the proposed Tungabhadra-Kistna project.

B The following schemes are under investigation :—

(1) Improvements to the Badvel tank (Badvel taluk).
(2) Excavation of a channel from the Pennar to supply water for irrigation in Vogur, Vakavada, etc., villages (Siddhout taluk).

Repairs to the Kottapalle and Peddasettipalle channels.

383 *Q.*—Mr. K. Koti Reddi : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state in what stage the proposal to repair the Kottapalle and Peddasettipalle channels near Proddatur, Cuddapah district, is?

A.—The Government have no information in regard to the Kottapalle channel but have called for a report. The proposal to repair the Peddasettipalle channel is under the consideration of Government.

Levy of penalties in Tenali and other taluks for unauthorized use of water for irrigation.

384 *Q.*—Mr. C. Satyanarayana Choudari : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Revenue authorities have levied penalties on the ryots of Tenali, Repalle and Bapatla taluks in the Guntur district at the rate of six times and in some cases 12 times the ordinary revenue for unauthorized use of water for raising paddy crop ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the lands where such unauthorized cultivation was made are lands surrounded on all sides by wet lands and unfit for dry crops ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that on account of the raising of shutters at Bezwada and by the removal of Pidaparru lock in Guntur district a large quantity of surplus water has become available for Tenali and Repalle taluks ; and, if so, whether the Government have included in the permanent ayacut any more lands since then ; and

(*d*) whether the Government have issued instructions to District Collectors to suspend collection of the penalties referred to in clause (*a*) or taken any other action in regard to them?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government have no information. They presume however that the irregular irrigation of lands not included in the ayacut of the Kistna Western Delta is being penalized under the rules in section H of Appendix I to Board's Standing Order No. 4 (2). Rule V of these rules provides for levy in such cases of enhanced water-cess on a progressive scale.

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(c) The Government have no information about the Pidaparru lock. The raising of the shutters at Bezwada has made a larger supply of water available for irrigation. An extent of 18,322 acres has been selected for inclusion in the ayacut of the Kistna Western delta. Lists of lands were published in the District Gazette in April 1929, February 1930 and July 1930. Further selections are being made.

(d) No.

Publication of the list of lands included in the Kistna Eastern delta.

385 Q.—Rao Sahib B. VENKATARAMAYYA NAYUDU: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) why the publication of the list of lands included in the Kistna Eastern delta is delayed; and

(b) if the publication of complete list is not possible in the near future, at least in parts, as they get ready?

A.—(a) A list of lands selected for inclusion in the ayacut subject to the payment of an inclusion fee and the lowering of their level within a fixed period was published in the *Kistna District Gazette* in May 1921.

(b) The question of including in the ayacut lands additional to those which have already been included in pursuance of the above notification is under examination, and it will be some time before orders are passed.

Refusal of water-supply for irrigation to non-co-operators.

386 Q.—Rao Sahib B. VENKATARAMAYYA NAYUDU: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Public Works Department passed orders refusing to supply water to non-co-operators to their lands in the West Godavari district;

(b) if so, to what class of lands the rule applies; and

(c) on what authority the said prohibition is based?

A.—(a) (b) & (c) The Government have passed no such orders.

Land Revenue

Acquisition of lands for building houses in So-Nambinanthal village.

387 Q.—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the villagers of So-Nambinanthal, Tiruvannamalai taluk, North Arcot, memorialized to the authorities for the acquisition of lands for building houses, and if so, what action was taken thereon; and

(b) why the lands have not yet been acquired for them?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have not the information. No memorial addressed to Government can be traced.

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Remission of land revenue in the Presidency.

388 *Q.*—Mr. G. SIMHACHALAM: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the prospects of the collection of land revenue in the Presidency are, in view of the considerable fall in the prices of all the commodities and the floods in the south;

(*b*) whether the Government propose to render any assistance to the ryots and landowners in the Presidency by remissions or other means, in the payment of land taxes; and

(*c*) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to collect the land taxes in one instalment only instead of in three instalments as before?

A.—(*a*) The Government are not in a position to make any statement on the subject at present.

(*b*) No such measure is contemplated. The hon. Member's attention however is invited to the answer given to clause (*b*) of question No. 378.

(*c*) There is no such proposal before the Government.

Construction of the Collector's office buildings at Ellore.

389 *Q.*—Rao Sahib B. VENKATARAMAYYA NAYUDU: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the construction of the Collector's office buildings at Ellore is likely to be completed;

(*b*) why the construction of the Collector's quarters has not yet begun; and

(*c*) whether the Government are aware of the considerable inconvenience felt by the public by the location of the office and the residence of the Collector at Masulipatam?

A.—(*a*) In 1931–32.

(*b*) It was undesirable that the Collector's residence should be built before the office was likely to be ready. The construction of the residence is to begin this month.

(*c*) The Government are aware that the existing arrangement is inconvenient.

Village Establishments

Action taken on the resolutions by the Village Officers' Conference.

390 *Q.*—Mr. G. SIMHACHALAM: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received the resolutions of the Guntur District Village Officers' Conference held at Narasaraopet on 28th November 1929 submitted by M.R.Ry. Sahitya Visharada Kona Venkataraya Sarma, Secretary of the Association, regarding the grievances of village officers;

(*b*) whether the Government are considering the question of allowing village karnams like village munsifs to stand for elections to panchayats and local boards and other elective bodies;

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(c) whether the Government have considered the question of not compelling karnams who have once passed the Survey test to go again for survey training; and

(d) whether the Government have issued any circulars to Land Records Revenue officers in the matter?

A.—(a) No.

(b) Under section 48 (2) of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, village officers (including karnams) are not debarred as such from election as Councillors Under section 54 (2) of the Local Boards Act, village headmen are not debarred as such from election to local boards (including panchayats) but not karnams. The Government are not contemplating any change in the law.

(c) & (d) The matter is governed by the Board's Standing Orders. A karnam who has once passed the survey test is sent again for survey training only when it is found that, in spite of his having once passed the survey test, he is incompetent as a surveyor.

Local Boards and Municipal Councils

Elections under the revised Local Boards Act.

391 Q.—Rao Sahib B. VENKATARAMAYYA NAYUDU: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) when the District Panchayat officers referred to in section 68 of the new Local Boards Act are going to be appointed by the local boards;

(b) whether the Government have framed any rules fixing the pay, conditions of service and qualification of the District Panchayat officers;

(c) whether the rules framed in that connexion, if any, will be laid on the table of the House;

(d) whether the Government have taken all the steps necessary to enable the elections under the new Local Boards Act to take place as notified in the Act in August 1931;

(e) whether the business of the preparation of the electoral rolls relating to the Municipalities and Local Boards Acts has been started, and if not, what is the reason for the delay;

(f) whether the Government will be pleased to expedite the preparation of the electoral rolls with a view to enable the municipalities and the local boards to have the elections held at the proper time; and

(g) whether the circles and wards referred to in sections 47, 48 and 49 of the Local Boards Act and 43 of the District Municipalities Act have been formed, and if not, when they are likely to be formed?

A.—(a) to (c) The matter is under consideration.

(d), (e), (f) & (g) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the answer to question No. 240.

Construction of a bridge across the Cauvery between Velur and Mohanur.

392 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether there was a proposal some time ago to build a bridge across the river Cauvery to connect Trichinopoly and Salem districts at a point between Velur and Mohanur in the Salem district; and

(b) if so, at what stage it is and why it has not been carried further?

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A.—The proposal was considered and has not been lost sight of but it cannot be proceeded with in the present condition of finances until existing commitments are cleared.

Agriculture

Prohibition of the export of oil-cake, etc.

393 *Q.*—Mr. K. Koti Reddi: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state what steps have already been taken or are proposed to be taken in order to prohibit the export of such articles as oil-cake (Poonac) which are used as food for cattle or as manure or as both?

A.—None.

Education

Admission to the Ice House Hostel, Triplicane.

394 *Q.*—Mr. K. Koti Reddi: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of applications received each year for the last five years from widows for residence in the Ice House Hostel, Triplicane, Madrás, and how many of them applied also for Government scholarships;

(*b*) how many of them were admitted into the hostel and how many granted scholarships; and

(*c*) what steps the Government propose to take in order to increase the number of scholarships and the residential accommodation for widows?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*).—Information is not available.
(*c*) None.

Alleged withholding of grants to the Hindu Middle School, Kaikaram.

395 *Q.*—Rao Sahib B. Venkataramayya Nayudu: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the general teaching grant relating to the Hindu Middle School, Kaikaram, West Godavari district, for the year 1927-28 has been withheld and if so, for what reasons?

A.—The grant for 1927-28 was withheld for the reason that the managing committee of the school was not then a registered body and the working of the school was reported to be unsatisfactory.

Excise

Closure of toddy and arrack shops in Pundipallam and Bulusutippa villages.

396 *Q.*—Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether petitions were submitted to Government for the closing down of toddy and arrack shops in the villages of Pundipallam and Bulusutippa in the East Godavari district;

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(b) whether the villagers themselves have expressed their willingness for the closing down of the shops; and

(c) what is the reason for the delay in closing the toddy and arrack shops in the villages of Pundipallam and Bulusutippa in the East Godavari district, as prayed for by the residents of the villages?

A.—(a) *to* (c) No such petitions or representations are traceable.

Industries

Manufacture of chemical manures.

397 Q.—Mr. K. Koti Reddi: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) what steps have been taken by the Government to investigate the possibility of manufacturing chemical manures such as super-phosphates and nitrates of lime; and

(b) if no steps have so far been taken, whether he proposes to take any steps?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government considered the question of starting a departmental factory for crushing phosphatic nodule deposits found in the Trichinopoly district for manurial purposes but dropped the proposal for the following reasons:—

(i) The commercial potentialities of the nodule were doubtful;

(ii) the effective value as manure of the phosphatic meal was decidedly limited;

(iii) as a source of super-phosphate, the nodules were definitely unsuited, as the deposits compared so unfavourably with imported phosphates in the matter of phosphoric acid content that it was cheaper per unit of phosphoric acid to import the higher grade phosphates; and

(iv) as, owing to the high content of carbonate and of impurities such as iron, the amount of sulphuric acid required for manufacturing super-phosphate out of the nodules would be excessive and the product tended to 'revert' or become insoluble.

As regards manufacturing nitrates of lime, there is at present no prospect of manufacturing nitrogen fixation products in this country at an economic rate and the Government do not propose to take any action in the matter.

[For further list of unstarred questions, vide page 749 infra.].

STARRED QUESTIONS

Jails

Allowances and rent-free quarters to Sub-Assistant Surgeons on jail duty.

*398 Q.—Diwan Bahadur M. Gopalaswami Mudaliyar:—Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that prior to the 1st September 1923, the jail allowance of Rs. 30 per mensem and the rent-free quarters were allowed to the sub-assistant surgeon on jail duty;